

## **PROPOSED AGENDA**

Big issues

EPA's primary goals and challenges  
- water quality work underway

Obama administration priorities  
- Interim Federal Action Plan  
- Bay Delta Conservation Plan

Recent State legislation

Potential upcoming Federal legislation

EPA investment (and options)

FY11 President's budget

Delta tour itinerary

## **Proposed Itinerary for Delta Tour March 17<sup>th</sup>**

9 am leave from EPA

9:45 Pittsburg Riverview Park (overview of Suisun Bay; discuss X2)

10:15 Bethel Island (historic and new/bankrupt developments) and Franks Tract (sewerage and levee failures)

11:00 Big Break Science Center and Dutch Slough (habitat restoration and community involvement)

11:30 Horseshoe Bend (dredging and habitat restoration failure)

11:45 Twitchell Island (carbon farming; setback levees; island subsidence)

12:15 lunch in Walnut Grove

1:00 Delta Cross Channel (overview of plumbing; peripheral canal orientation)

2:00 Bouldin Island; Delta Wetlands project

3:00 Tour of fish salvage facilities and pumping operations

4:30 Arrive SF

Along for the ride: Jared; Bruce Herbold; Karen Schwinn; Erin Foresman; Carolyn Yale; Tom Hagler

## **Background for Bay-Delta Principles meeting**

EPA's top 3 priorities are in the December 22, 2009 Interim Federal Bay Delta Action Plan:

1. Ensuring that water quality regulations sufficiently protect beneficial uses, not only the T&E species (salmon, Delta smelt, etc) but other species, as well as drinking water and agricultural uses.

→ Region 9 will continue to provide funding and technical assistance to the State Water Board as it implements the Clean Water Act.

→ Region 9 is currently assessing the effectiveness of California's water quality regulatory efforts.

→ EPA will issue an ANPR to gather information on select issues that are not currently being fully addressed.

2. Establishing a locally-supported comprehensive water quality monitoring & assessment program which provides a sound scientific basis for targeting water quality improvement activities; and

→ Region 9 and California are currently partnering on strategy development.

→ Under the Action Plan, other federal agencies have agreed to participate.

→ Major issues are long-term funding and governance.

3. Assisting in the development of a long-term solution to Delta water management issues via the BDCP (Bay Delta Conservation Plan) and/or California's new Delta Stewardship Council efforts.

→ the BDCP, as currently structured and managed, has many problems.

→ EPA is working under DOI's leadership to identify and resolve the key issues

→ until key issues are resolved, EPA should not commit to any BDCP schedule or any increased level of participation



## **Potential roles for RA in Bay Delta issues**

Over the last 20 years, the level of effort by the RA and his/her role in Bay Delta issues has varied greatly. Ideally, the role of the new RA would stem from our agreed-upon goals and our vision for accomplishing those goals. Following are our current goals, followed by a suggested role for the RA in helping to accomplish them.

### **1. EPA has adequate resources to do its work well.**

→ advocate internally (with HQ) for additional resources

→ explain EPA's priorities to Congress

### **2. CWA is effectively implemented.**

→ support and pressure the SWRCB to adopt adequate rules

→ political support for FWS and NOAA, if needed to uphold BOs

### **3. Water management decisions are based on sound analysis which considers water quality impacts and sustainability of water resources.**

→ establish relationships with federal agency political leaders. Raise issues as needed.

→ establish relationship with Directors of State and federal agencies; including new State governing entity. Raise issues as needed

→ establish relationship with key legislators to ensure they understand water quality issues and EPA's role. Raise issues as needed.

### **4. Tribal and ej issues are represented in decision-making.**

→ champion for tribal and ej issues

## **Suggested initial contacts:**

### **Congress:**

Feinstein  
Miller  
Garamendi  
Speier  
Valley Democrats

### **Feds:**

David Hayes  
Nancy Sutley  
Dr. Lubchenco  
Mike Connor

### **State agencies:**

Lester Snow (Natural Resources Secretary)  
Charlie Hoppin (chair of SWRCB)  
Phil Isenberg (or whoever is appointed to chair the Delta Stewardship Council)

### **Governor's Office**

Susan Kennedy

### **State legislator:**

Jared Huffman  
Daryl Steinberg

Later, depending on EPA activity:

Leaders of ag, urban, enviro, and business community

Delta interests, including the counties and water districts